

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR DOG NOW THAT THE GREENBELT DOG PARK IS CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

As the Greenbelt Dog Park is closed due to of Covid-19, pet parents may be wondering what they can do with their dogs besides walking them. The good news is that many dog-related activities and training classes have moved online. Kris White, the Greenbelt Dog Park Association's President Emeritus, is a volunteer with Your Dog's Friend (YDF) which is a local 501.c.3 trying to keep dogs rescued from shelters from being returned to shelters

Greenbelters might be surprised to learn that YDF has partnered with the Greenbelt Animal Shelter providing resources and volunteer trainers, with Greenbelt CART providing training, with WAGS as a partner in a grant that provided money for children and animal safety classes throughout the city and volunteer trainers, and with Greenbelt Homes, Inc.'s Companion Animal Committee on a number of community education projects.

Your Dog's Friend (YDF) has a training facility in Rockville, MD. They also offer free workshops on topics such as fearful dogs, reactive dogs, various aspects of animal behavior, how to enrich and have fun with your dogs, and many other topics. With a grant from Maddie's Fund and the advent of Covid-19, they were able to record and place many of these recorded workshops online. Also upcoming workshops over the next few weeks will be available online. Although not free, the same is true for many of their training classes.

YDF also provides free workshops for adopters of rescue dogs. The workshop provides an opportunity to learn about clicker training, hear tips about what to do and not do with new rescue dogs, and an opportunity to ask a trainer about any behavior or other issues dog parents are experiencing with their dogs. The next Advice for Adopters workshop will be online:

Advice for Adopters will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2020 from 1:30-3:30

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/565761261>

Examples of upcoming workshops include:

Pet Emergencies During COVID-19 is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Please click to [register in advance](#) so that you will receive and email with the info you'll need to join the webinar.

CBD – The Miracle Drug is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2020 from 1:30-3:30 PM

Please click to [register in advance](#) so you will receive the info you'll need to join the webinar.

Examples of some of the upcoming training classes at YDF are:

Basic Manners

Learn to speak "Doglish" and build a bond between you and your dog while learning valuable skills like Come, Sit, Wait, Leave It, and loose leash walking.

Fun and Games for Kids and Dogs

Join us for six fun 30 minute classes to entertain kids and dogs as they learn tricks and skills together.

My Dog Needs More To Do: Learn & Share Class

Join this online class to learn and share ways to provide mental stimulation for your dog. We'll teach and explore how to use food toys, scent games, trick training, and more.

For more training classes and class schedules go to yourdogsfriend.org.

There are a large number of videos online that address common behavior problems, enrichment activities for dogs and other dog-related topics. One example is the attention games video for dogs to help them learn an attention cue, a very valuable cue for a dog parent at the Greenbelt Dog Park.

Attention Games

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Qxx5Rzwiqo>

Home With Your Dog Through Covid-19: Management

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqPC8dmMkLA>

Learn to Speak Dog

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf7R46CmUH4>

Check out other training videos online. Just be careful to make sure that the trainer is a positive, force free trainer. Your Dog's Friend has a helpful webpage that illustrates the difference between positive, force free, trainers and other styles of training:

<https://yourdogsfriend.org/dog-training/>

Enjoy!